

2021-2022 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT AND WORK PLAN

I. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- A. The Barron County Forest is comprised of 14 compartments with a total of 16,288 re-conned acres *.

Forest Cover:

1. Aspen	4,740 acres
2. Bottomland Hardwoods	18 acres
3. White Birch	17 acres
4. Misc. Deciduous	33 acres
4. Red Maple	9 acres
5. Northern Hardwoods	2,182 acres
6. Oak	4,920 acres
7. Red Pine	397 acres
8. White Pine	237 acres
9. Black Spruce	24 acres
10. Swamp Hardwoods	302 acres
11. White Spruce	18 acres
12. Tamarack	172 acres

Non-forest cover:

1. Cool Season Grass	79 acres
2. Developed Use	18 acres
3. Emergent Wetland	567 acres
4. Water	27 acres
5. Minor lakes	578 acres
6. Minor streams	23 acres
7. Right-of-way	121 acres
8. Shallow Lake	838 acres
9. Rock outcrops	46 acres
10. Upland Shrub	13 acres
11. Wetland Shrub	512 acres
12. Wetland Shrub - Alder	174 acres
13. Muskeg- Bog	223 acres

* Totals may not match due to rounding.

- B. The Forest access road system consists of approximately 70 miles of trails and access roads classified under primary and secondary access roads. Details of classification system can be found in Chapter 700 and a map in Chapter 900 of the 2006-2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

II. TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Status of past due close-outs of completed sales.

- Five (5) sales were closed-out in FY 2021. Two (2) sales are expected to be closed out in FY 2022.

- B. Timber Sale Revenue

- Timber sale revenue for FY 2021 was \$ 216,519.19.

- C. Four (4) Sales were sold at a spring 2021 bid opening.

- D. Active timber sales.

- There is currently one(1) active sale on the forest. There is one(1) sale where harvest has been completed and in the process of being closed-out. Four (4) sales are under contract.

E. New timber sale development for 2022

- For 2022 approximately 335 acres of timber sale establishment will be completed. The acreage being established consists of northern hardwood and oak thinning.

F. DNR Time Standards County Forest Time Standards

- The goal for DNR hours on Barron County Forest was 478 hours and was met by DNR forestry personnel. The 2021-2022 goal is 478 hours, which will be met by primarily Janette Cain, DNR Liaison Forester.

III. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

- A. Forest reconnaissance is completed following completion of timber sale or when stand is physically entered and then rescheduled. Currently .89 % of the Barron County Forest recon is older than 21 years.

IV. FUTURE DESIRED CONDITIONS

The Barron County Forest will see a natural conversion of oak to the northern hardwood cover-type. The county will continue efforts to maintain oak through the use of regeneration harvest, fire and timber stand improvement techniques, in stands that exhibit good oak regeneration potential. The past stands where oak regeneration harvest was done will be monitored for success using WisFIRS program

EAB - Due to the expected rise in the Emerald Ash Borer population the future of the ash species is bleak. Many ash are designated to be cut with each new sale establishment.

Oak Wilt - Efforts will be made to continue to monitor for Oak Wilt, especially in the 2017 tornado valley.

Buckthorn and garlic mustard are the main invasive species. Garlic mustard found in a small area in the northwestern part of the county. Plans are to continue to monitor these areas and treat as necessary.

V. TIMBERSTAND IMPROVEMENT

Areas will continue to be identified for potential T.S.I.

VI. REFORESTATION / REGENERATION

- A. Two areas, one in the Silver Cr. Block and an area in the Owen Anderson Rifle Range were sprayed with Garlon to control buckthorn and prepare for reforestation. The sites will be revisited in the summer of 2022 to evaluate.

VII. FOREST PROTECTION

- A. A majority of the Barron County Forest is in the DNR intensive fire protection zones. The Silver Creek and Hay River Compartments are in non-protective zones. Agreements are in place with the appropriate fire departments.

Fire is not normally a problem except during extreme conditions. Barron County has very little conifer type to be of concern.

- B. There have been no major outbreaks of insects or diseases on the County Forest. Specialists are called in whenever something of interest or an unusual nature is detected. Larch beetle is causing some mortality. EAB (emerald ash borer) has been detected in southern Sawyer County. EAB and Gypsy Moth are anticipated to be future problems.

VIII. MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Barron County has no buildings and/or campgrounds on the County Forest.

- A. Gates. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget.
- B. Roads and Trails Annually, money is budgeted for maintenance and development of forest access roads. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget. An existing road to Goose Lake in the Mikana block is be open to public vehicle access. The road is improved with matting and rock by the County's Maintenance staff on an as needed basis.
- C. Property Lines. County surveyor will continue to identify property boundaries as timber sales are set-up. Earlier property lines in need of re-marking will be identified. GIS Department created a "layer" identifying property lines and the dates they were installed.

IX. Aid Monies

- A. Wildlife Habitat Fund for 2021 (\$.05 / ac.) monies were spent establishing fruit tree plantings for wildlife. 2022 funds will continue to be used for future plantings.

- B. County Conservation Aids

- 2021-2022 Allocation will be directed to the control of buckthorn in the Silver Cr. Block and Owen Anderson Rifle Range (see VI.A).

X. GIS - BARRON COUNTY FOREST

Additional roads and trails will be added to the database if and when they are developed.

XI. LAND PURCHASES, SALES, EXCHANGES WITHIN COUNTY FOREST

No land purchases were made in 2021.

XII. Permits

- A. Six (6) firewood permits were issued in 2021. Revenue generated was \$ 150.00.
- B. Five(5) permits were issued in 2021 to allow disabled individuals motorized access to the county forest.
- C. Three (3) Christmas Permits were issued. Revenue generated was \$22.17.

XIII. INTERACTION WITH OTHER GROUPS

- A. Snowmobile Clubs - Whenever possible, segments of the Barron County snowmobile trail system are placed within the Barron County Forest. To the greatest extent possible, trails are placed on existing forest access roads. Such placement often eliminates need for brushing on such segments. Disruption of snowmobile trails for logging is usually minimal.
- B. Skiing - The Barron County Forest has a ½ mile lighted cross-country ski trail in the Waterman Lake block. Site includes a parking lot and warming house. Members of the Ice Age Trail developed and placed an information Kiosk along with paving the parking lot with the cooperation of the Barron County Highway Department. All are maintained by the Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA). The County provides annual funding to assist in the maintenance of this resource.

The Recreation Deputy / Trail Coordinator from the Barron County Sheriff's Department will take responsibility of co-coordinating activities on the County trail systems.

XIV. RECREATION

- A. Parks and Campgrounds - No parks or campgrounds are located on the Barron County Forest.
- B. Boat Landings - Boat landings on the Forest are undeveloped with carry-in access only.
- C. All Terrain Vehicles - Most of the Barron County Forest is closed to ATV use. The 15-year Forest Plan allows use of ATV's in County Forest after case-by-case review by the Property Committee.

In 2021 a 2 mile trail was completed in the Cedar Lk. Compartment east of the Loch-Lomond development.
- D. Snowmobile Trails - Approximately 9 miles of funded snowmobile trails are located in the forest.
- E. Snowshoeing - A 2 ½ mile snowshoe trail was completed in 2001 with an additional 2 mile loop in 2002. Total of 4 ½ miles of three connecting loops have been signed, brushed, and ready for snow since early in 2002.
- F. Rifle Range - The Owen Anderson Rifle Range is located in the Hay River block of the County Forest. In 2014 a DNR Grant provided funding for the installation of new shooting benches with covers, a new pit toilet, blacktop paths connecting the parking area to all ranges, a security gate (powered to open and close at night, or when range needs to be closed). Entrance road was improved with addition of gravel. Future additions may include the construction of an archery range.
- G. The National Ice Age Trail - traverses several compartments of the forest. Portions of the trail are found in the following compartments: Cedar Lake, Bear Lake and Waterman Lake.

Parts of the above-mentioned snowshoe trail uses a portion of the Ice Age Trail in the Waterman Lake block. The Ice Age Trail is always protected by timber sale contract provisions, when a timber sale comes in contact with the trail.

In 2021 parts of the IAT were re-routed in the Cedar Lk. compartment.

- H. Equestrian Trails - Two trails along with a horse trailer camping area are established in the Narrow-Gauge Compartment. Establishment and maintenance were supplied by and is the responsibility of the Barron County Horse Trail Association.
- I. Turtle Creek Handicap Fishing Piers. Two (2) aluminum fishing piers are installed on Turtle Cr. The piers are retractable and provide safe access for handicapped individuals fishing the creek. Monies were provided by Barron County's County Conservation allotment.
- J. Mountain Bike Trails. A Mountain bike trail was established in the Doyle block of the county forest. Five (5) loops were constructed containing approximately 4.5 miles. A second system of trails was developed in the Silver Creek Management unit. Construction and maintenance will be performed in cooperation with CORBA (Chippewa Off Road Bicycle Association).

XV. OTHER TOPICS

- A. Wisconsin County Forest Association Meetings - A representative from the Property Committee and Forest Administrator have been active participants in WCFA activities and committees. Barron County will continue such participation as a means of keeping up with new ideas from other Counties, to find solutions to Barron County problems and to have a voice in legislation at the state and national level.

- B. Fifteen Year Plan Activities

In 2021 a revised 15-Year Plan was put into place.

- C. Forest Certification - Barron County was not involved in any Certification Audits in 2020.